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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-05 /077 W
----------065319 240440Z /21
R 230914Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4685
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, KS
SUBJECT: KOREAN PRESS IS EVINCING RELATIVELY MORE PRESS FREEDOM OF LATE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SEOUL 4739

1. LONG TIME PRESS OBSERVERS DETECT SIGNIFICANT RELAXATION IN WHAT NOW CAN BE PRINTED IN KOREAN PRESS, TENDING TO PROVE THAT SELF-CENSORSHIP MAY BE WORKIN AND THAT ROKG SEEMS SATISFIED WITH RESULTS.

2. WE HAVE NOTED RECENTLY THAT PRESS FREEDOM SEEMS TO BE EXPANDING EVEN FURTHER THAN EXPANSION REPORTED REFTEL. KOREAN PRESS HAS BEEN REPORTING IN SIGNIFICANT DETAIL SUBJECTS WHICH THREE MONTHS AGO WOULD MOST LIKELY HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED BY EITHER KCIA OR RICID SELF-CENSORSHIP. MOST RECENT EXAMPLE OF THIS HAS BEEN WEALTH OF DETAILED MATERIAL PRINTED ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS BEGINNING JUNE 23 WHEN SUBJECTS POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING TO ROKG HAVE
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BEEN REPORTED IN UNUSUAL DEPTH.

3. FOR EXAMPLE, NDP DEMANDS TO RELEASE MYONGDONG PRISONERS AND ITS REQUEST FOR REPEAL OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. NINE WERE FEATURED IN JUNE 23 PRESS STORIES, ALONG WITH MINISTERIAL RESPONSES. INDEPENDENT TONGA ILBO PRINTED FULL TEXT OF NEW YORK TIMES STORY BY HALLORAN ON ALLEGED U.S.

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ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF BLUE HOUSE, AND SUBJECT HAS BEEN GIVEN FULL TREATMENT IN OTHER NEWSPAPERS AS WELL. AS INDICATED SEOUL 5182, MOFA AND AMBASSADOR'S DENIAL TO MOFA OF THESE ALLEGATIONS ALSO REPORTED. EX-KCIA CHIEF KIM HYONG-UK'S TESTIMONY BEFORE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HAS BEEN COVERED IN SIGNIFICANT DETAIL, INCLUDING NAMERS OF ROK OFFICIALS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN KIM TAE-CHUNG KIDNAPPING IN 1973, SOME OF WHOM CONTINUE TO HOLD IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT POSITIONS TODAY.

4. HOW LONG THIS WILL LAST IS PROBLEMATIC BUT THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF A CLAMPDOWN YET. USIS CONTACTS AND OTHER LONG-TIME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT AS LONG AS THERE IS NO ATTACK ON PRESIDENT OR YUSHIN CONSTITUTION PER SE, STORIES CRITICAL OF ROKG WILL CONTINUE TO BE PRINTED. EDITORS REPORTEDLY ARE USING THEIR OWN JUDGEMENT MORE AND MORE AS TO WHAT STORIES SHOULD BE RUN AND IN WHAT DETAIL AND FEEL A CONSIDERABLE FREEDOM IN DOING SO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL05230
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770627/aaaaawxc.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Page Count: 2
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 4739
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 2056573
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Subject: KOREAN PRESS IS EVINCING RELATIVELY MORE PRESS FREEDOM OF LATE CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, KS
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Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8d05cf77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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